

LATORNELL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

2016



From 1999 to 2015, the Latornell Conservation Symposium honoured individuals who have demonstrated life-long, outstanding contributions to the field of conservation. They were recognized for their innovation, leadership and dedication to the conservation field. Either through their personal activities and/or leadership, they have gone beyond the call of duty or responsibility to an employer, client, or their community.

These individuals have helped to celebrate and inspire innovation in the conservation field and have made a difference in their field of expertise. Nominees have encouraged and

motivated others to take similar leadership roles towards conservation work.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Symposium in 2013, it was decided to revise this award in order to also recognize individuals who have made significant contributions at any time, for any duration – and not just over the course of their entire lifetime as long as their achievements demonstrate leadership accomplishments. To reflect this, the award was renamed the Latornell Leadership Award.

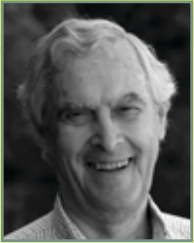
Nominations are reviewed and evaluated by a special sub-committee of the Latornell Steering Committee.



MEET THE 2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Thomas McClenaghan LONDON, ON

Nominated by: The City of London, ON



A native Londoner, Thom McClenaghan has been actively engaged as a leader in local conservation issues since the 1980s. His innovation through his role as school principal led to the creation of the Arthur Ford Nature Park, at Arthur Ford Public School in London, ON; the first Public Elementary School possibly in Canada to intentionally link education and the natural world together in this format. The Park was officially opened in 1992 and 25 years later, he continues to be involved with the flourishing of the Park he inspired, providing the

next generation with an appreciation of nature and an understanding of the importance of conservation.

Thom is also responsible for helping spearhead the movement to protect the Coves Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and the Coves Subwatershed in the heart of London. His leadership, vision and drive to protect the Coves helped lead to the formation of the Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. (FOTCSI) in 1999. Projects have involved removal of invasive species, creation of safe environment for endangered species such as the Eastern meadowlark, tree planting, creation of trails for public access, and public education.

Due partly to his perseverance, FOTCSI was able to initiate and raise funds that led to the completion of the Coves Subwatershed Study in 2004 with its 59 recommendations; and in 2014, his efforts once again helped lead to the completion of the Coves ESA Conservation Master Plan.

Thom McClenaghan continues to work with the City of London and other likeminded stakeholders to support them in their studies as well as their goals. His leadership ensures enhanced community enjoyment, understanding and appreciation for the Coves.

Richard (Dick) Hunter PETERBOROUGH, ON

Nominated by: Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, Peterborough ON



Dick Hunter has over 37 years of influential work in conservation and natural resources management. After participating in the Junior Conservationist program in 1968, he became one of Art Latornell's protégés. In 1972, as a student, Dick supervised one of the largest crews of "Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program" (SWEEP) at the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. From 1973 to 1987, he worked with Conservation Authorities (CAs) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), administering the CA program.

During this time, Dick was actively involved in the Ontario Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, serving as President in 1976.

With MNR, he served as Deputy Regional Director of the North Central Region and Regional Director of the Northeast and Southcentral Regions from 1987 to 2000. In these positions, Dick dealt with a variety of issues like

the Matchewan Tailings Pond Spill near Kirkland Lake in 1990, and the aftermath of the Ice Storm in Eastern Ontario in 1998.

Shortly after the Walkerton tragedy in 2000, Dick returned to his CA roots as General Manager of Conservation Ontario until 2005. One of his most significant accomplishments was the strong leadership role he played in the development of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. With his guidance, 36 CAs worked together to develop their technical capacity and achieved credibility in all aspects of this field, thus enabling them to take on a significant role in implementation.

Dick's final career challenge was serving 4 years as CAO at Otonabee Conservation, bringing his leadership abilities to the management and protection of natural resources in his hometown. During this time, he also served two years as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Latornell Conservation Symposium.

Dick has always applied energy and passion in everything he does. His enthusiasm inspired young people and colleagues alike. Dick is known as a champion of the conservation cause, and by extension a role model to those who have worked with him.

Clarke Birchard CHESLEY, ON

Nominated by: Saugeen Nature, Hanover ON



For more than 36 years, Clarke Birchard was an educator in a variety of roles and a strong proponent of outdoor education. His career included time as a classroom teacher, principal, a science master at London Teachers' College, instructor of environmental science for Nipissing University Faculty of Education at the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre (MNR) and 20 years as Supervisor of Outdoor Education for the Bruce County Board of Education. Throughout those years he was often a presenter at conferences, workshops and courses

for teachers. Throughout retirement he continues to volunteer for many organizations, sharing his knowledge and providing valuable input. Clarke is one to roll up his sleeves and offer help whenever called upon.

He was a charter member and director for the Council of Outdoor Education of Ontario. In 1983, Clarke received the COEO President's Award

for outstanding achievement in the development of outdoor education in Ontario. In 1985, he received an Honorary Life Membership for 10 or more years of distinguished service to that organization.

Clarke served 7 years on the Ontario Nature Board of Directors and was chair of the Nature Reserves Committee for 5 of those years. His appreciation of, and dedication to Ontario Nature runs deep. Under Clarke's guidance pine plantations were thinned, forests were restored, species at risk were counted, dangerous buildings were demolished and acres upon acres of important lands were added to Ontario Nature's network of nature reserves. He has received conservation awards from Ontario Nature and Saugeen Nature. He is a co-author of the book *Geology and Landforms of Bruce and Grey Counties*, written along with a group of friends to help residents and visitors understand and appreciate the landscape on which they live, work and travel.

Clarke was one of the founders of the Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival established in 2000 to teach students about the importance of the conservation and stewardship of our water resources. At the time, it was one of the first water festivals held in a rural area.

Gord MacPherson **TORONTO, ON**

Nominated by: Toronto and Region Conservation, Toronto ON



Gord MacPherson established one of the longest running fisheries monitoring programs on the north shore of Lake Ontario more than 28 years ago. This work helped promote the development of regionally based aquatic habitat planning, including the Integrated Shoreline Management Plan (1996) and the Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy (TWAHRS) (2003) in which he played instrumental roles.

Gord also contributed to the establishment of Aquatic Habitat Toronto (AHT), a multi-agency partnership group responsible for the implementation of TWAHRS. This creation helped direct substantial investments into major shoreline and aquatic habitat enhancement projects that Gord helped steer, including; coastal marsh restoration at Duffin's Corner

Marsh, Frenchman's Bay and the Toronto Islands. His expertise is invaluable to the Toronto Remedial Action Plan, helping to guide projects that make significant habitat gains in the Toronto Area of Concern.

Gord has been involved in conservation issues for more than 34 years and his most meaningful contributions have been with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). He also works with others in the environmental field to pass on his experiences and his knowledge. On a daily basis, Gord talks to the public about fish and other wildlife that live in Toronto's natural areas and inspires them to contribute to conservation in simple, but meaningful ways.

Working with Gord at the conservation authority has allowed many people to gain a solid start to their conservation careers, exposing them to a wide variety of conservation stewardship, restoration, and environmental monitoring projects. Gord's ability to effectively communicate always puts people at ease, which has helped many generations in understanding various important conservation issues.

Peter Gray **BRIGHT, ON**

Nominated by: Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, Kitchener ON



Peter Gray is a hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience in the water industry. He is an entrepreneur who, at 32, started his own environmental consulting business, Frontline Environmental, before merging with MTE Consultants Inc. in 2007, where he is currently the Vice-President of the Environmental Division. His interest in water science began while obtaining his degree in Earth Science from the University of Waterloo, where he sits on various committees promoting the water industry.

As a hydrogeologist and a father, he saw the need to educate our youth about the importance of water and the environment. As volunteer Chair of Groundwater Education Ontario in 1993, he began to develop the concept of hosting a Canadian Children's Groundwater Festival. In partnership with industry, the University of Waterloo, and the Grand River Conservation Authority, the first Canadian children's water festival was held in Milton, in 1994.

Peter Gray and the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival have been recognized for achievements in their efforts to educate students about the importance of environmental issues. Peter was presented with the June Callwood Award in 2015 for his volunteer commitment and dedication in the implementation of water and environmental education programs throughout Ontario. Over 700,000 children have attended a water festival at one of 30 different locations across the Province.

Peter helped create the Children's Water Education Council in 2001. The Council has a simple mandate; respect our water sources, and preserve it for future generations. He has also developed an Environmental Leadership camp for high school students, and a field camp for junior high students.

Peter Gray's knowledge of hydrogeology and commitment to educating our youth has been instrumental in designing activities for Water Festivals. His leadership at the local Children's Groundwater Festival level as well as his commitment to educating youth about their connection to water and the environment across the province, has seen much support by many educators and is well deserved.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES: TOM PROUT

- One of our Latornell Conservation Symposium's Leadership award recipients in 2015.
- His involvement in conservation covers a wide variety of jobs in every area from cutting lawn to serving as General Manager.
- Served for over 3 decades as General Manager and Secretary treasurer of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.
- Tom has an ability to inspire young conservation professionals, helping them forge meaningful careers.
- Has contributed to many projects, including the Lake Huron Southeast Shores Initiative.
- He has represented Canada on the board of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2015

Muriel Andreae, Ian Buchanan, Tom Prout, Bob Rogers

2014

Judi Brouse, Debbe Crandall, Lorrie Minshall

2013

Mike Garrett, Peter Middleton, Russ Powell, Bill Dickinson, Jean-Marc Filion

2012

Peter Orphanos, John Sibbald, Jack Imhof, Scott Gillingwater

2011

Jim Anderson, Liette Vasseur, Paul Aird, Tom Taylor

2010

Stew Hilts, Vicki Barron, Don Ross, Gil Henderson

2009

Ian Parrish, Ian Macnab, Allan Ralph, Ernie Crossland, Craig Mather

2008

Dr. John Gunn, Lorne Smith, Harold Parker, Jim Myslik, Bob Whittam

2007

Bruce Duncan, Deborah Beatty, Lou Wise, Michael Hough, Ted Mosquin

2006

Sally Beaton, Robert Bowles, Ron Reid, George Stormont

2005

Don Lobb, Dr. Gray Merriam, Dr. David Pearson, Dr. Anthony Smith, Ben Vanderbrug

2004

Malcom Kirk, Patrick J. McManus, Dr. Duncan Sinclair, David Cressman, Maria and Paul Heissler

2003

Ron Scott, Jack Macpherson, Arthur Herbert Richardson, Greta McGillivray, William McLean

2002

Hal Hooke, Terry Sprague, Jim Bruce, Terk Bayly, Rheel Proulx, Tom Millar, Peter Harvie

2001

Ken Mayall, Murray Miller, Douglas Hoffman, Elwood Moore, George R. Richardson, Gordon Oldfield

2000

Jim Bauer, Janet Fletcher, Harry Barrett, Trevor Dickinson, Ray Lowes, Bob Burgar

1999

John Murray, Charles Alexander, Len Johnson, Dr. Dave Ankney, Christine Nornabell, Russell Piper, Mac Coutts, Ken Higgs

If you are interested in nominating an individual for consideration for the 2017 Latornell Leadership Award, see the criteria detailed on the Latornell Conservation Symposium website at www.latornell.ca



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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